

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05
CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOE-11 H-01 INR-07
INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 USIA-06
OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-06 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 SIG-01
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S/AS:PFARLEY
DOE/URE:JPATTERSON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
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INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: WORLD NATURAL URANIUM MARKET

1. AS BACKGROUND FOR INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE
EVALUATION IN STUDY AREAS ONE AND THREE (URANIUM RESOURCE
AVAILABILITY AND FUEL ASSURANCES), DEPARTMENT IS PREPARING
A STUDY OF THE WORLD URANIUM MARKET. DETAILED MARKET
INFORMATION ON A COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY BASIS IS INCOMPLETE

AND OF VARYING QUALITY; THEREFORE WE REQUEST THAT POSTS ADDRESS SPECIFIC QUESTIONS NOTED BELOW. WE ARE AWARE THAT SOME REPORTING HAS BEEN DONE ON THESE ISSUES AND ASK THAT POSTS CITE APPROPRIATE REFERENCES.

2. WHAT ENTITIES PURCHASE U308 (UTILITIES?) - DO THEY DEAL WITH PRODUCERS OR GO THROUGH A STATE INTERMEDIARY? WHERE A STATE INTERMEDIARY EXISTS, WHAT IS ITS PRINCIPAL ROLE AND WHAT INFLUENCE HAS IT OVER PRICE?

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3. WHERE COUNTRY IS NET IMPORTER - WHAT ARE PRINCIPAL SOURCES OF U308 SUPPLIES SINCE 1970? (COUNTRY MAY SHOW URANIUM IMPORTS AS ORIGINATING IN THE COUNTRY OF ITS CONVERTER OR ENRICHER - OUR INTEREST IS THE INITIAL SOURCE OF U308 FEED)

4. DEPARTMENT ASSUMES FUEL FABRICATORS AND URANIUM CONVERTERS (U308 TO UF6) ARE NOT DIRECT PURCHASERS OF U308, BUT WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION TO THE CONTRARY.

5. WHAT IS THE BALANCE OF PURCHASES BETWEEN LONG TERM CONTRACT AND SPOT MARKET AND WHAT MECHANISMS OR FORA EXIST FOR SPOT MARKET TRANSACTIONS?

6. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE POST'S ESTIMATES OF NUCLEAR FUEL STOCKPILES (INTENDED FOR COMMERCIAL POWER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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APPLICATIONS), I.E. U308, LOW ENRICHED FUEL, FUEL ASSEMBLIES, AND WHO HOLDS SUCH STOCKS.

7. DEPARTMENT RECOGNIZES THE LACK OF TRANSPARENCY IN THE NUCLEAR FUELS MARKET BUT WOULD APPRECIATE WHATEVER INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE BY JANUARY 25.

CHRISTOPHER

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